

HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 360 – 194 Putnam Pike
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on **Wednesday, April 28, 2010.**

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson; Moderator - Raymond Fogarty, Jr.;
Treasurer - Sandra Owens; Tax Collector - Kimberly Barber;
Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr.;
Board Members - Louise Michaels, James Richards & Milton Huston

Absent: Clerk - Ann Dahlquist;
Board Member - George Kain
Association Representative – George Nichols

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:20 pm by Moderator Fogarty.

II. - Approval of the minutes from the March 18th meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the March 18th meeting. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Louise made a motion to accept the minutes. Milton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. - Treasurer's Report:

Sandy did not have a report available to present this month.

IV. - Tax Collector's Report:

Taxes receivable balance is \$97,791.47 as of today's date. Taxes collected in the month of April were \$12,686.02. Third party billing monies collected in the month of April totaled \$8,202.78. The tax sale process will start in May for the Sale to be held in August.

Christine Martin, a Ponaganset High School Junior, came in to the station over school vacation last week to do community service. It is a graduation requirement to perform 20 hours of community service. Christine worked on labeling photos hanging in the halls, scanning documents for our digital archives and preparing archive albums. It was a fun experience and she was a pleasure to have in the office. Ray asked about another community service project for another Harmony student. The Chief will check into it. Jim also suggested that the student contact the library for hours.

Kim has been in contact with Geoff Malo and our financial audit for fiscal year end June 30, 2009 will be ready by the end of May.

A new three (3) year contract, commencing July 1, 2010, has been signed with our 3rd party billing provider, Healthcare Management and Billing Services. They have reduced their rate from 6% to 5% of revenue collected.

Jim made a motion to accept the tax collector's report. Louise seconded it. The motion carried.

V. - Chief's Report:

The Chief had thank you cards to pass around for the board to view. One from Deputy Chief Dennis Huestis, Chepachet Fire Department, a second from crew member Eric Palmieri, and another from residents Marie and Bill Poliquin whom appreciated the service of our rescue. Dennis and Eric are both feeling much better now.

A thank you letter was received from the Woonasquatucket League in appreciation for the use of our building for their recent "Beyond the Basics" class.

A copy of Harrisville Fire Departments 100th Anniversary booklet is available to view. The page with our ad is marked.

The Chief had a newsletter from the Symposium in the Sun that he had attended in Clearwater, Florida last fall. It gives a little insight into the event and the training and topics it covered for volunteer and combination fire departments.

A training was held here by the RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) for the use of the 800 MHz radios that were distributed statewide through grant funding. These radios bring us into compliance with federal law.

The Chief led a group of Cub Scouts through the station one evening for a tour. It was a fun experience, one he thinks the kids really enjoyed.

On March 24th the Chief attended an AFG grant workshop. Another application period is opening and we are hoping to be successful this time. At the meeting they stated that we would hear within the next week or two about any outstanding grants that we have filed. Nothing yet though, so it is very frustrating.

The Association held a Ham & Bean Dinner here at the station. It was their first event in the new kitchen and it went quite well.

The Chief attended the quarterly meeting of Glocester Building Inspectors office and the Glocester Fire Inspectors. The Plumbing and Electrical Inspectors were also in attendance. These meetings are always informative and a great way to keep the lines of communication open and all of the inspectors in town working together.

On March 29th the President declared a National State of Emergency in RI due to flooding. We worked with RIEMA and FEMA throughout the emergency and kept them abreast of the situation here in Harmony. A meeting was attended with these agencies and we were registered to submit a claim for disaster relief funds. Our "Kick-Off" meeting will be tomorrow morning and the other Glocester fire departments will be in attendance as well. Ray expressed his appreciation to the department and crew for their assistance at his son's house during the flooding.

On April 20th Lieutenant Kevin Farley received the Chepachet Grange's Firefighter of the Year award.

The Chief also attended the swearing in ceremony for the new Glocester Police Chief, Joseph Delprete.

Last night the Chief attended a northern Fire Chief's meeting at the Foster Country Club. Once again there was a very good attendance from Glocester, Foster, Scituate and Burrillville. A group from Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications made a presentation about an emergency dispatch center. Quite a bit of conversation and good ideas came from it. The next step would be to speak with the Police Chiefs of each town, to go over the proposal. This is a proactive idea, thinking about the future, with no plans being concrete.

Chief Pearson and Private Michael Grenga attended Career Day at the Ponaganset High School today. The power point presentation went well and was an interesting experience.

Also today the Deputy Chief attended a foam demonstration at Smithfield Station #3.

There has been a date change for the Surprise Birthday Party for Milton Aldrich. It will now be Sunday, June 27th.

Reminder: The Glocester Fire Department's Banquet is this Saturday, May 1st. Cocktails at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. There are raffle tickets available for purchase, \$1 each or a book of 6 for \$5. If the tickets are bought prior to the banquet our department gets to keep 100% of the proceeds, if bought the night of the banquet the proceeds have to be split with the other two departments.

Louise made a motion to accept the chief's report. Milton seconded it. The motion carried.

VI. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

No representative available to present report.

VII. - Committee Reports:

a. Rescue Committee – Jim, Chair

Jim had pictures of the new truck for everyone to view. Delivery of truck will be any day now. It was here this past Tuesday for the committee to inspect. Now it is back at the local facility, having the lock box installed and a few other small things. Once it gets here we will receive the Certificate of Origin which will enable us to register it. Then it will have to be inspected by the RI Department of Health, so they can issue us a license. Then we can put it on the road. Sandy had the checks ready to remit to Specialty Vehicles for payment.

The old truck will be relettered and stored at West Glocester Fire Department. Jim has drafted an agreement for the combined ownership of it between us and the Chepachet Fire District. An invoice will accompany the agreement requesting their payment of \$6,500. This payment will be deposited into our miscellaneous income account for now, possibly to be transferred to our truck fund account in the future. Ray requested that a photo of the new rescue be e-mailed to him for use in a project that he is working on at Bryant. It is a state-wide document showing that RI ranks number 2 in the nation for emergency medical service. He will have the photo inserted near that ranking. It will be great recognition.

b. Call Pay Review – George, Chair
George absent – no update available.

c. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair

Milton had some questions for the board after reviewing the sample document provided by the Gloucester Town Hall. Is our document meant to be similar to this? The board agreed that it should be. It should cover pay rates, attendance, vacation, leave, conduct, use of e-mail, etc. It is a document that is meant to cover the administration side of the district. The board would like to contact the same person who helped us work on the job description before Kim came on board.

d. Charter & By-Laws Review – George, Chair

Although George was absent, Kim stated that the proposed Charter & By-Laws changes had been forwarded to Attorney Mason for review. Attorney Mason stated that the only item he found an issue with, was the use of the term “quasi-municipal corporation.” He feels that it does not apply to the Harmony Fire District and should therefore be struck. Other than that there were only minor verbiage adjustments throughout the documents. Ray was concerned about getting the changes for the Charter to the Legislature before they adjourned around July 4th. Instead letters will need to be sent to our Legislators in September for submission in November. The changes to the By-Laws were presented at this meeting to be voted on at the next meeting of the board.

Milton asked about posting our Charter and By-Laws on our website. Kim said that is something that she and the Chief had discussed, when talking about changes for the website. They will be added sometime in the future.

VIII. - Old Business: Addressed throughout reports.

IX. - New Business:

Budget Fiscal Year 2010-11.

Sandy requested that Kim send any information she has to her and she will prepare a budget worksheet to send out to the board. Then the worksheet can be distributed via e-mail to the board members for their review prior to our next meeting.

Next month an executive session will need to be called for matters of personnel to determine pay rates for budgeting purposes.

Some discussion followed about the water in the building. The Chief is calling someone in to check out the system. For the time being the board approved bringing in a water delivery company to rent a dispenser and have water jugs delivered.

The Chief brought up the subject of wind turbines, which has been covered locally in newspapers due to several projects in RI, including one in Smithfield. Some discussion followed about possible options and uses for this type of project for the fire district.

X. - Public Input: No audience.

XI. – Executive Session: None called.

XII. – Adjournment:

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Louise seconded it. The motion carried.

The April meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **8:20 pm**.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board
is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, May 20, 2010** at the Harmony Fire Station.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly S. Barber".

Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Secretary